



## **Common Questions and Answers Regarding the Miami-Dade Towing Ordinance**

On July 22, 2003, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 03-176, which reinstates licensing and regulation of the towing industry.

**What does the law do?** The law reinstates a licensing program for persons engaged in the business of towing and establishes regulations regarding how towers conduct business in Miami-Dade County.

**What do the regulations do?** The regulations set forth insurance levels, vehicle standards, records and trip manifest requirements, criminal background standards for business owners and requirements governing non-consent tows, including the establishment of maximum rates.

**To whom does the law apply?** The law applies to all entities that engage in the business of towing. Licensing requirements apply to towers that engage in consent (tows conducted with the vehicle owners consent) and non-consent tows (police directed and private property).

**Do I need to get licensed if I only tow within a municipality?** Yes. The law applies countywide.

**How do I apply for a license?** Towing license applications and instructions can be obtained by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at (305)375-4222, press (1) for English or (2) for Spanish, press (3) for Licensing, and then press (1) for Towing; picked up in person at 140 West Flagler Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Licensing Section; or available on-line at <http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/csd/>.

**When is the law effective?** The law is effective immediately. The licensing requirement is effective on November 22, 2003. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE TOWING BUSINESSES TO OBTAIN THEIR LICENSES WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE EFFECTIVE LICENSING DATE.

**Who enforces the ordinance?** The Consumer Services Department.

**What is the penalty for violating the law?** The penalty for operating without a towing license carries a civil fine of \$500 and may be subject to additional sanctions.